

Comments

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9-13 and 15 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent 4,907,649 to Bode (“Bode”). The Examiner maintains the position that the restrictions in Bode are sufficient to limit or prevent rotation of the cementing plug during drillout. Applicants strongly disagree with the Examiner’s position for the reason that the restrictions in Bode are clearly intended to allow downward movement of the plugs with fluid pressure. While the Examiner claims it is inherent to limit the rotation of the plug during drillout, such simply cannot be the case since the drill bit applying downward pressure sufficient to drill a cementing plug out will force the cementing plug through the restriction in Bode. Notwithstanding Applicants’ disagreement with the Examiner’s position, claims 1, 7 and 12 have been amended so that limitations are now included that clearly overcome the Examiner’s rejection. Each of those claims now includes a limitation that calls for a restriction that prevents or stops the downward movement of the cementing plug in the casing. Nothing in Bode is designed to nor is capable of stopping the downward flow of the cementing plug since the opposite is taught by Bode. A restriction sufficient to stop the downward movement of a cementing plug in Bode would defeat the purpose of Bode which is to identify the location of the cementing plug during its downward travel and to allow fluid pressure to push the cementing plug through the casing. As such, Bode cannot be said to include a restriction in the casing that stops downward movement of the cementing plug. Claims 1, 7 and 12 and all of the claims that depend therefrom should therefore be allowed along with previously allowed claims 16 and 17.

Conclusion

Accordingly, and for the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request an early indication of the allowance of claims 1-17.

Respectfully submitted,



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